

Oracle State Park
Center for Environmental Education
OPEN WEEKENDS YEAR-ROUND
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 8AM-5PM



WEEKEND CALENDAR:
AZStateParks.com/Parks/ORAC
For reservations, call (520) 896-2425

Oracle State Park is open to the public for day-use on a limited basis: Saturdays and Sundays only from 8am-5pm. Weekdays, the park offers school programs and facility rental by reservation. The American Avenue trailhead parking lot is open seven days a week to access the National Scenic Arizona Trail, and to accommodate use by night-time stargazers.

Oracle State Park is an International Dark Sky Park, designated in 2014 by the International Dark Sky Association. The park is also a 4,000 acre wildlife refuge with over 15 miles of maintained trails for use by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.

ONGOING WEEKENDS:

Self-guided tours of the historic Kannally Ranch House: Visit the park office/gift shop and take a self-guided tour through the multi-level Kannally family home. The Mediterranean-Revival Style ranch house built 1929-1933, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Guided Tour of the historic Kannally Ranch House begins at 11am every Saturday and Sunday, for the drop-in public. 45-minute duration. Alternate times may be added by reservation.

Lee Kannally paintings exhibit continues

An exhibit of impressionist-style paintings by self-taught cowboy artist, Lee Kannally, is on display at the Kannally Ranch House. Nearly 30 oils are included in the exhibit, thanks to the **Oracle Historical Society** and **Friends of Oracle State Park**.

Wildlife Slide Show

See what's showing up at waterhole cameras in the park.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, February 28: "Meet the Neighbors", begins at 12pm in the living room of the Kannally Ranch House. Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum Program about living with desert wildlife, featuring live animals: a snake, skunk and barn owl. Space is limited; reservation required. Free with park admission, thanks to funding by **Friends of Oracle State Park**.

Wednesday, March 2: Volunteer Training continues, **9am-Noon**. Trail guides are needed to lead environmental education programs for visiting school groups. Learn to be a trail guide for the Oracle Odyssey Program, an environmental education program designed for grades 4-6. Help park rangers offer field trip opportunities to visiting school groups. Reservation required. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to share nature with kids and ability to walk one-mile of trail. For more information and to sign up for the classes, call the park office at (520) 896-2425 or email Jennifer Rinio at: jrinio@azstateparks.gov

Saturday, March 5: Star Party Special Event: Celebrate Connections to Nature at Oracle State Park: Activities include: Beginner Digital Astrophotography Workshop from 3p-5p, by reservation. Join volunteer Mike Weasner for an introduction to taking night-time astrophotos using any camera alone, or in combination with a tripod or telescope. From 5p-6:30p, get out on the Nature Trail for

“Signs and Sounds”. Read the new educational signage along the one-mile trail highlighting wildlife, vegetation, geology and water resources of the park, while enjoying the sounds of live instrumental music featuring violin, mandolin, flute, drums and guitar. From 7-9pm, stick around for a Star Party! Tucson Amateur Astronomer’s Association will provide telescopes and interpretation of night-sky objects. Kids’ activities throughout the day include: skull identification and making dials to tell time by the sun and stars. All activities are free with park admission.

Sunday, March 6: Bighorn Basics, 12:30pm. Join Arizona State Parks volunteer, Richard Boyer, as he presents "Bighorn Basics" at the Kannally Ranch House for a 35-minute talk to learn more about bighorn sheep. What are they? Where have they been? Where are they now? Many of the tools we use can be compared to the tools the Bighorn Sheep use to survive in mountainous areas of Arizona. For several years, Richard has presented this Bighorn Basics program at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado where he recently retired as a seasonal National Park Service Ranger. Free with park admission. Reservation preferred.

Wednesday, March 9: Volunteer Training, 9am-Noon. An introduction to the plants, wildlife and geology of the park; also safety protocol on the trail and review of the Oracle Odyssey Program props. Reservation required.

Saturday, March 12: Wedding Reservation at the Kannally Ranch House in the afternoon may limit visitor access. This would be a great day to enjoy trails or alternative picnic sites following the regularly scheduled 11am Guided House Tour.

Sunday, March 13: Mineralogy Program, begins at **NOON** in the living room of the Kannally Ranch House. Join local mineralogist, Wolfgang Mueller, for a talk featuring rocks associated with regional mining operations and lapidary uses. Reservation suggested, free with park admission.

Saturday, March 19: Guided Hike: Arizona Trail Loop. Begins at 8am for approximately 6 miles. Meet at Kannally Ranch House parking lot. Hike the Wildlife Corridor Trail, National Scenic Arizona Trail to Windmill, and return via the Manzanita Trail. A reservation is required -- please contact Volunteer Guide, Gaston Meloche, at VHC.Gaston@gmail.com OR call to register at (520) 638-5404 by 4pm the day before the hike. For park directions, call the park office at: (520) 896-2425. The fee is \$7 per vehicle paid at the entrance gate or park office.

Saturday, March 26: “Wildlife in the Santa Catalina Mountains”. Presentation by Sky Island Alliance begins at 1pm. Powerpoint slide show program featuring images of jaguar, mountain lion, black bear and other footage caught on wildlife cameras around southern Arizona. Please call for a reservation. Free with park admission.

Sunday, March 27: Tohono O’odham Basket-weaving Demonstration. Celebrate March as Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Awareness Month. Oracle provides traditional bear-grass gathering grounds for people of the lower desert. Elizabeth Jose of the Tohono O’odham Nation will be on hand with a weaving project to show technique, beginning at 1pm on the ranch house patio. Free with park admission, thanks to support by **Friends of Oracle State Park**.

